

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** December 20, 2006

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 5:22 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### ATTENDING MEMBERS

Ron Gibson, Acting Chair  
Sherron Franklin  
Dane Mahern  
Lynn McWhirter  
Marilyn Pfisterer  
William Oliver  
Lincoln Plowman

#### ABSENT MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman  
Joanne Sanders

### **AGENDA**

**Update on Law Enforcement Consolidation Process** – Penny Davis

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE**

The Law Enforcement Consolidation Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, December 20, 2006. Acting Chair Ron Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Sherron Franklin, Dane Mahern, Lynn McWhirter, Marilyn Pfisterer, William Oliver, and Lincoln Plowman. Chairman Lonnell Conley and Joanne Sanders were absent.

Acting Chair Gibson stated that Chairman Conley is recuperating from surgery at home and he wished him continued success in his recovery.

### **Update on Law Enforcement Consolidation Process** – Penny Davis

Penny Davis, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Transition Advisory Committee, stated that the sub-committee meetings are all grinding to a halt in anticipation of the consolidation. She said that the Advisory Committee met on November 16 and December 14, 2006, and forwarded recommendations on the training organizational chart, vehicles services, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) command structure, command staff biographies, fuel cards and civilian structure to the Authority. The Authority met on November 30 and December 19, 2006 and approved those recommendations, as well as selecting Merit Board Election Members and promoting 11 captains. Social Security sent a letter confirming what the City had been informed verbally would occur, that Marion County Sheriff's Department (MCSD) deputies will take a vote to either opt in or out of Social Security. Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) and new IMPD officers will not be allowed in. A Council Resolution will be presented on January 8, 2007 and the inaugural ceremony will take place on January 2, 2007.

Acting Chair Gibson asked if the IMPD will be ready to go in January with the full consolidation. Ms. Davis said that they are still in labor at the moment to get everything ready for delivery on January 1, 2007.

Acting Chair Gibson stated that each Councillor should have received a letter from the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF) regarding the Social Security issue, but he asked Suzannah Overholt, Transition Director, Office of Corporation Counsel, to explain this in further detail. Ms. Overholt stated that the Social Security Administration (SSA) sent a letter to confirm the previously verbal decision regarding IMPD and Social Security. She said that IMPD, as a whole, is exempt from Social Security; however, because the MCSD is currently in Social Security, they can choose as a group if they want to be in or out. The MCSD would not be covered as of January 1, 2007, but the referendum process would begin at that time with notice and education. The vote will take place at least 150 days after notice goes out. Fifty-one percent of eligible voters (which right now stands at 397 voters) would need to vote in favor of Social Security for coverage to resume. In the meantime, MCSD Social Security deductions will continue and will be kept in an escrow account, so that if the deputies vote for coverage, there will be no lapse in that coverage. If MCSD votes to opt out of Social Security, that

money paid by the City and the deputies would then be returned to the deputies and the City's fund balance. She said that the Governor's Office is in charge of designating who will oversee this process, and it is usually the Sheriff's Merit Board, but the City has no control over that. She said that according to the Social Security Administration, the City cannot start the process until January 1, 2007, because MCSD is covered by Social Security until the end of the year, and the new IMPD does not yet exist.

Councillor Franklin asked if all officers would have to opt out of Social Security if that is the vote, even if they have paid for 27 years or more into Social Security. She asked what would happen to that money they have paid into Social Security to date. Ms. Overholt said that she does not know all the details at this time, but there will be much written information given out to deputies, as well as many meetings with SSA representative, to answer such questions as the notice and information process gets underway. She said that the deputies should be fully informed of all their options before the vote takes place.

Councillor Pfisterer asked how it will be handled if someone retires during the 150-day process when they are not technically covered under Social Security. She asked if such an individual would be considered in or out of the Social Security program. Ms. Overholt stated that they would technically be out of the program, but she does not believe it would have much impact on the benefits they have already paid into the program, as it would depend on their quarters of service. Councillor Pfisterer asked if there is a website or phone number for deputies to call to get questions answered. Ms. Overholt stated that SSA has a website, as well as a local office in the Federal Building which should be listed in the phone book. She said that there is some question/answer type information on the website, but the deputies will need some fairly specific information that would be different from the average citizen, and this will be provided at live informational sessions.

Councillor Mahern asked if all civilian MCSD employees have been placed and have received formal letters regarding their new positions within IMPD. Ms. Davis said that she believes at least 99% of those civilian employees have all been informed. She stated that no one will be displaced or have to look for another job.

Acting Chair Gibson referred to recent press on the vehicle pursuit policy and asked if a policy has been adopted for the new IMPD. Ms. Davis stated that there is a subcommittee that dealt with the vehicle pursuit policy. The "pit maneuver" is new to IPD, but several MCSD deputies are trained in this pursuit maneuver. She said that there are still safeguards, and only those specifically trained in this maneuver are allowed to use it. Acting Chair Gibson asked if there are only 80 officers trained in the maneuver. Ms. Davis said she is not sure of the exact number, but there are very few trained in the maneuver at this time; however, they will begin training more.

Councillor Oliver referred to the new beat maps and asked if there are more officers in each beat or at least the same amount. Ms. Davis said that there are more beats

proposed with IMPD, but not all will take effect January 1, 2007. She said that the beats are based on many factors, including the amount of runs to the area and population. She said that as IMPD grows, more beats will be plugged in. She said that the manpower for each area remains the same, and they hope to increase it as new beats are activated.

Councillor Pfisterer asked about the status of community policing at this time. Ms. Davis said that they intend to continue community policing and will go County-wide with these efforts. Councillor Pfisterer said that she had heard that these units were reduced, with some down to only one person. She said that true community policing cannot be done with only one person. Ms. Davis said that community policing should not be done as one person, and all officers are involved in community policing. She said that these efforts will not be diminished, and the new IMPD is committed to community policing. Ms. Overholt added that a community relations officer and crime watch coordinator have been named in each district, and this information can be accessed on the transition website. She said that these numbers were pulled back during the summer, but have now been restored, and they hope to increase the number of neighborhood resource officers (NROs). However, community policing is the obligation of every officer. Councillor Pfisterer agreed that it works best if each officer is committed to community policing, but there were officers assigned directly to prevention measures in communities, such as identifying broken windows and abandoned vehicles. She said that this was very effective and she would like to see it put back into practice. Ms. Davis said that the Chief and Mayor are committed to community policing, and it depends on the final staffing numbers as to the best way to allocate resources. Councillor Pfisterer encouraged the administration to maintain community policing. She said that it may be confusing because she is thinking of a specific process, and maybe a mutual definition of community policing needs to be identified to eliminate confusion. Councillor Franklin stated that the process and preventative measures Councillor Pfisterer referred to relate to the duties of NROs.

Ms. Davis stated that of the 182 recommendations made by the Steering and Advisory Committees, the Authority approved 97%, which indicates a very effective and cooperative process.

Acting Chair Gibson commended Ms. Davis and Ms. Overholt and all the Committee members for their hard work, and stated that he is looking forward to the new IMPD beginning January 1, 2007.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

RG/ag

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Ron Gibson, Acting Chair